APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2626	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>15 May 2008</u>.

2a) ☒ This action is FINAL.   2b) ☐ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) <u>1-19</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) <u>1-19</u> is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:

      1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   In view of the Appeal Brief filed on May 15, 2008, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY

REOPENED. A final action set forth below.

        To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the

following two options:

(1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37

CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,

(2) initiate a new appeal by filing a notice of appeal under 37 CFR 41.31 followed by an

appeal brief under 37 CFR 41.37.

        The previously paid notice of appeal fee and appeal brief fee can be applied to

the new appeal. If, however, the appeal fees set forth in 37 CFR 41.20 have been

increased since they were previously paid, then appellant must pay the difference

between the increased fees and the amount previously paid.

        A Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) has approved of reopening prosecution by

signing below:

        /Patrick N. Edouard/

        Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2626

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3.   Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by

Rossides (US 5,454,063).

        As per claim 1, Rossides teaches, "a method for processing string input for a field

in an interactive voice response (IVR) system" (col. 3, lines 29-67, IVR, speaker's input

and a finite string of characters), the method comprising the steps of:

        "identifying a sub-string pattern of characters within acceptable input for the field

which is known to enjoy a high likelihood of recognition, the sub-string pattern of

characters exclusively containing a sequence of characters appearing amongst all

characters for the acceptable input for the field" (col. 5, lines 4-64, col. 1, lines 26-42

and col. 1, lines 56-63, here the invention provides "a high likelihood recognition");

        "prompting an interacting user for string input limited to said sub-string pattern"

(col. 7, lines 1-40);

        "matching received sub-string input conforming to said sub-string pattern with

data which conforms to said acceptable input to locate the string input for the field and,

completing the field with said matched data" (col. 7, lines 1-40).

As per claim 2, Rossides teaches, "wherein said identifying step comprises the step of identifying a sub-string pattern of characters within acceptable input for the field which is known to enjoy both a high likelihood of recognition and a high level of uniqueness" (col. 7, lines 1-40).

As per claim 3, Rossides teaches, "wherein said identifying step comprises the step of identifying a sub-string pattern of numeric, alphabetic and alphanumeric characters within acceptable input for the field which is known to enjoy a high likelihood of recognition" (col. 3, lines 55-56).

As per claim 4, Rossides teaches, "wherein said matching step comprises the step of querying a database for all records which have a specified field which contains said   received sub-string input" (col. 4, lines 12-61).

As per claim 5, Rossides teaches, "further comprising the step of pre-specifying which characters have a high likelihood of recognition" (col. 4, lines 40-61).

As per claim 6, Rossides teaches, "further comprising the step of pre-specifying a likelihood of recognition value for each of said characters" (col. 9, lines 36-51).

As per claim 7, Rossides teaches, "if said matching step produces a set of matching data, each data item in said set matching said sub-string input, disambiguating a desired data item from other data items in said set" (col. 6, lines 1-31).

As per claim 8, Rossides teaches, "wherein said disambiguating step comprises the steps of: selecting an additional field for processing, additionally prompting said interacting user for additional input for said additional matching received additional input

for said additional prompting with data which conforms to said acceptable input to locate the string input for the field" (col. 6, lines 1-46).

As per claim 9, Rossides teaches, "an interactive voice response (IVR) system comprising" (col. 3, line 29):

"at least one form comprising at least one field which can be completed using input received through the IVR system" (col. 4, lines 16-36);

"a sub-string analyzer coupled to the IVR system" (Fig. 3, elements "IVRR" and "Build search parameters"); and,

"a search processor coupled both to the IVR system and a database of data configured for searching based upon sub-strings which match sub-string patterns produced by said sub-string analyzer, the sub-string patterns exclusively containing a sequence of characters appearing amongst all characters for the acceptable input for the field" (col. 4, lines 40-61, "search parameters", "database");

"wherein said at least one field is completed using data matched in said database with said search processor using sub-string input provided through the IVR system" (col. 4, lines 12-21).

As per claim 10, Rossides teaches, "further comprising disambiguation logic" (col. 6, lines 1-46).

As per claim 11, Rossides teaches, "wherein said sub-string analyzer comprises a pre-configuration of computed recognition likelihoods for individual characters for use in forming said sub-string patterns" (col. 9, lines 36-51).

As per claim 12, Rossides teaches, "a machine readable storage having stored thereon a computer program for processing string input for a field in an interactive voice response (IVR) system" (col. 3, lines 9-31, here "hardware and software system includes input/output means"), the computer program comprising a routine set of instructions which when executed by a machine cause the machine to perform the steps of:

"identifying a sub-string pattern of characters within acceptable input for the field which is known to enjoy a high likelihood of recognition, the sub-string pattern of characters exclusively containing a sequence of characters appearing amongst all characters for the acceptable input for the field" (col. 5, lines 4-64, col. 1, lines 26-42 and col. 1, lines 56-63, here the invention provides "a high likelihood recognition");

"prompting an interacting user for string input limited to said sub-string pattern" (col. 7, lines 1-40);

"matching received sub-string input conforming to said sub-string pattern with data which conforms to said acceptable input to locate the string input for the field" (col. 7, lines 1-40); and,

"completing the field with said matched data" (col. 9, lines 26-31).

As per claims 13-19, they are analyzed and thus rejected for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claims 1-8, because of the similar scope of the claims.

Response to Arguments

4.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-19 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. The applicant has amended independent claims 1, 9 and 12 on September 4, 2007.

Conclusion

5.   Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

       A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Contact Information

6.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Abul K. Azad** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-7599.** If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Patrick Edouard**, can be reached at **(571) 272-7603.**

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Or faxed to: **(571) 273-8300.**

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to **401 Dulany Street, Alexandria,**

VA-22314 (Customer Service Window).

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

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For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

June 27, 2008

/Abul K. Azad/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2626